

Maine CDC/DHHS Public Health Update
February 17, 2011

IN THIS UPDATE:

(click on the title below to go to a section)

HEALTHY MAINE 2010

VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

RECOMMENDED IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES FOR CHILDREN
NATIONAL VACCINE PLAN
TDAP VACCINATION STRATEGIES
PCR DIAGNOSING OF PERTUSSIS – BEST PRACTICES
INFLUENZA UPDATE

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH DATA

HEALTH REFORM

FEBRUARY HEALTH OBSERVANCES

OTHER UPDATES

STAY UPDATED

HEALTHY MAINE 2010

A summary of Healthy Maine 2010 updates in report card format is now available at http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/healthy_maine/ReportCard-2010.pdf.

All Healthy Maine 2010 information is available at http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/healthy_maine/index.shtml.

VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

Recommended Immunization Schedules for Children

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued its annual Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6005a6.htm?s_cid=tw_mmwr90

National Vaccine Plan

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services has unveiled a new National Vaccine Plan to enhance coordination of all aspects of federal vaccine and immunization activities. Its goal is to ensure that all Americans can access the preventive benefits of vaccines. <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/02/20110216b.html>

Tdap Vaccination Strategies

Representatives from the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America co-authored a report titled Tdap Vaccination Strategies for Adolescents and Adults, Including Health Care Personnel, which is available at <http://www.jointcommission.org/tdap/>

The report is intended to help health care organizations of all types (hospitals, long term care facilities, ambulatory settings, home health organizations, etc.) improve Tdap vaccination rates.

The report notes that some important changes to the previously published ACIP recommendations were approved at the October 2010 ACIP meeting:

1. For adults ages 65 years and older, a single dose of Tdap vaccine may be given in place of a tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td) vaccine in persons who have not received Tdap.
2. Adults ages 65 years and older who have or anticipate having close contact with an infant age less than 12 months should receive a single dose of Tdap to protect against pertussis and reduce the likelihood of transmission of pertussis to infants age less than 12 months.

3. Tdap can be administered regardless of the interval since the last tetanus- or diphtheria-containing vaccine.
4. Children ages 7 through 10 years who are not fully immunized against pertussis and for whom no contraindication to pertussis vaccines exists should receive a single dose of Tdap to provide protection against pertussis. If additional doses of tetanus and diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccines are needed, then children ages 7 through 10 years should be vaccinated according to catch-up guidance.

PCR Diagnosing of Pertussis – Best Practices

US CDC has issued a Health Alert on the best practices for health care professionals related to the use of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for diagnosing pertussis in light of the continuing resurgence of pertussis and the likelihood that health care professionals will see more patients with suspected pertussis.

- For guidance in distinguishing signs and symptoms of pertussis from those of other conditions, see <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/features.html>
- For more information on diagnostic testing, see <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/diagnosis-confirmation.html>
- For information on specimen collection, see <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/specimen-collection.html>
- For the entire guidance on PCR best practices in diagnosing pertussis, see <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/diagnosis-pcr-bestpractices.html>

Influenza Update

Flu is widespread in Maine. In the week ending Feb. 12, there were seven new outbreaks – one in a long term care facility and six in K-12 schools. It is not too late to be vaccinated against the flu this season. To obtain flu vaccine, contact your health care provider, or look up clinics at www.flu.gov or www.211maine.org

Weekly updates on flu activity are available

- For Maine: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/influenza_surveillance_weekly_updates.shtml
- For the US: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/summary.htm>
- For the world: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/international/activity.htm>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has released the report *HIV Screening and Access to Care: Exploring the Impact of Policies on Access to and Provision of HIV Care*. The report examines how Federal and State laws and policies and private health insurance policies affect entry into clinical care and the provision of continuous and sustained care for people with HIV. It is available at <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/HIV-Screening-and-Access-to-Care-Exploring-the-Impact-of-Policies-on-Access-to-and-Provision-of-HIV-Care.aspx> US CDC has also published an article on disparities in HIV diagnoses among African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6004a2.htm?s_cid=mm6004a2_w

US CDC has also published “Discordant Results from Reverse Sequence Syphilis Screening” in the MMWR: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6005a1.htm?s_cid=fb_mmwr98

PUBLIC HEALTH DATA

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has launched a new web portal providing important health and health care indicator data to support innovations in information technology. The Health Indicators Warehouse is a collection of

indicators from a wide array of HHS data sources that are maintained to support researchers, technology developers and policymakers. For more information, see this press release: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/02/20110211a.html>

Maine Public Health data reports are available at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/phdata/> and the Maine DHHS data dashboard is accessible at <https://gateway.maine.gov/dhhs-apps/dashboard/>

HEALTH REFORM

The US Department of Health and Human Services has made new resources available to increase awareness of the Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP), a health plan for uninsured Americans with pre-existing conditions created by the Affordable Care Act. Americans continue to enroll in the plan, which was created in 2010 to provide comprehensive health coverage – at the same price that otherwise healthy people pay – for uninsured Americans living with such conditions as cancer, diabetes, or heart disease who have been unable to obtain affordable health insurance coverage. For more information: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/02/20110210a.html>

FEBRUARY HEALTH OBSERVANCES

- This week is Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Week. Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is the most common form of muscular dystrophy among children. For more information: http://www.cdc.gov/Features/MuscularDystrophy/?s_cid=fb702
- February is National Children's Dental Health Month. A child's complete preventive dental program should include fluoride, twice-daily brushing, wise food choices, and regular dental care. Learn more: http://www.cdc.gov/features/dsUntreatedCavitiesKids/?s_cid=fb699
- February is also American Heart Month (<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HeartMonth/>). This month's edition of CDC *Vital Signs* focuses on cardiovascular disease and what we can do to increase control of high blood pressure and cholesterol -- reducing the number of heart attacks, strokes, and other cardiovascular diseases in the United States: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/VitalSigns/CardiovascularDisease/>. For more information on cardiovascular health, visit <http://www.mainehearthealth.org/>

OTHER UPDATES

- US CDC has made new patient education materials related to hepatitis available on its website: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Resources/PatientEdMaterials.htm>

STAY UPDATED

You may subscribe to these updates for free through an RSS feed, by clicking on this link: <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/rss.php?tid=1049>. In Internet Explorer and Firefox, you will be prompted to Subscribe to the Feed and then select the folder where feeds are stored.

- **Follow Maine CDC's Social Media Updates:**
 - Facebook (www.facebook.com/MaineCDC)
 - Twitter (<http://twitter.com/MEPublicHealth>)
 - Blog (<http://mainepublichealth.blogspot.com>)
- **For clinical consultation and outbreak management guidance**, call Maine CDC's toll free 24-hour phone line at: 1-800-821-5821.